

that Reserve component servicemembers who incur the same risks as other servicemembers in protecting our everyday freedoms indeed have earned a more comparable benefits package.

UNIVERSAL NATIONAL SERVICE
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H.R. 163, a bill to reinstate the draft. Rumors of a military draft have been flying around the Internet and the possibility has been discussed at millions of lunch and dinner tables all over the country. Constituents, especially those with kids and grandkids, have called me to ask, "Is this true?" The answer is no. We will defeat this bill today. But that doesn't mean that American families don't have to worry about a draft—a backdoor draft.

In the Army alone, over 20,000 soldiers have had their tours of duty extended. Seven thousand active duty soldiers and 3,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists will be forced into extended deployments by President Bush's "stop loss" orders that prevent them from leaving the service after their contract expires. Those orders hurt our brave men and women and they hurt their families. Extended deployments over-seas have been correlated to increased rates of alcoholism, domestic violence and divorce. The biggest tragedy of the current situation in Iraq is that the lives of brave military men and women are being disrupted—and in some cases changed forever—because of wrong foreign policies.

More appropriate foreign policies that do not call on our troops to attack foreign countries on a unilateral preemptive basis would allow us to meet our defense and national security needs with a volunteer force. Our young men and women have seen the impact of our current policy in Iraq. They have seen over 1,000 lose their lives in a war of choice, and, even worse, they have seen our troops sent into battle without modern protective equipment. As a result, military men and women are not re-enlisting. For the first time since 1994, the Army National Guard came up short on its recruiting goals. The Army has nearly tripled its previous top enlistment bonus to certain recruits, lowered its standards for new recruits and added hundreds of new recruiters in what looks to be a long-shot effort to meet next year's goal. The way to fill our security needs is not to reinstate a draft. The answer is to change our policies and to make sure that we are taking care of the troops we have.

Our troops are stretched thin and getting thinner. We are losing what little support from the international community we had in Iraq. Poland, our third largest ally in Iraq just announced they will soon fix a date for the withdrawal of its 2,500 troops. We launched a unilateral, preemptive war against a country that did not have weapons of mass destruction or a link to al Qaeda. We now know that not only did Iraq not have nuclear weapons, but that virtually every U.S. expert—and international expert—questioned the claim before we went to war, but those views were kept secret.

Either President Bush knew that his own experts disagreed and refused to acknowledge the fact, or he went to war without knowing that his justification for war was being challenged within his own Administration. In either case, it is tragic that it is the military men and women and their families who are now paying the price and facing the backdoor draft. They deserve much better.

THE RETIREMENT OF U.S.
REPRESENTATIVE BILL LIPINSKI

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as we draw to the end of this, 108th Congress, we are about to lose BILL LIPINSKI to retirement. A valued friend, a highly respected colleague, and a great representative for his constituents in the Third District of Illinois, the southwest side of Chicago and suburban communities, BILL's presence will be missed around here.

But our loss will turn out to be the gain of his lovely wife, Rose Marie, his two children and their spouses, and his two grandchildren, as he heads home to spend more time with his family and to reportedly lend his efforts to worthy causes around his lifelong home, southwest Chicago.

In addition to his duties as a longtime congressman and ward committeeman, BILL has been my close colleague on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where I've personally been able to work with him and see him, up close, and in action.

Over the course of the 108th Congress, he has served the Transportation Committee in the critical role of Ranking Member to the important Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, which has crafted the major, bipartisan, surface transportation and jobs bill, H.R. 3550, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.

BILL's contributions, along with those of my colleagues DON YOUNG of Alaska, JIM OBERSTAR of Minnesota, and TOM PETRI of Wisconsin, have been invaluable in getting us a bill that the House passed with overwhelming support from both sides of the political aisle, and that currently is being considered in conference by members of the House and the Senate.

In the past, he has effectively used his skills to deliver millions of federal dollars to build the Chicago Transit Authority's Orange Line, and to provide for improvements to both Midway and O'Hare airports.

Over the last 22 years, the time during which BILL has served both his constituents and this House so capably, he has won respect from his peers and established strong relationships with members on both sides of the aisle. The statements, here, of his colleagues in regard to his retirement provide testament to just how warmly he is regarded.

Now, he will have more time to devote to his family. But, even if he's planning on getting away from this House, I don't really think BILL will be totally detaching himself from the political profession in which he has made such an indelible mark. Politics is in the family blood; his wife, Rose Marie, has served as a presidential elector for their home state of Illinois,

and his son Dan is the Democrat nominee to succeed BILL in the Illinois Third District. So, BILL will have no option but to remain connected, even if only to keep up with the rest of his family.

BILL, I salute you, and I will miss you, both personally and professionally, but I sincerely wish you well in your future endeavors.

PATIENT NAVIGATOR OUTREACH
AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker I would like to thank the following supporters of H.R. 918:

American Cancer Society
National Council of La Raza
National Association of Community Health Centers
American Diabetes Association
National Rural Health Association
Intercultural Cancer Council
Intercultural Cancer Council Caucus
100 Black Men of America
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Hispanic Medical Association
Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Cancer Center

MHz Networks
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Dia De La Mujer Latina, Inc.
National Congress for American Indians
National Indian Health Board
Navajo Nation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Health Council

I would also like to thank the following additional individuals who worked to make this bill a reality: Ellen Heier, Patrick Fritz, Elizabeth Cameron, Colleen Chapman, Kelly Green Kahn, and Wendy Selig.

ARUBA

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, one of the core principles on which our nation is founded is the belief in an individual's God-given right to pursue happiness without government interference. Traditionally this has been understood as an endorsement of the quintessential entrepreneurial spirit and of free-market economics. The great, late president Ronald Reagan liked to talk about America as a city on a hill, a light that offers guidance to the nations of the world.

I rise today to pay tribute to a small island nation that has been a shining example in a sometimes troubled region of the world. Under the capable leadership of Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, the government of Aruba has led the way in exemplifying stable and democratic good governance and in creating an ownership society with a growing, prospering private sector. Most of us understand the vital role a